

"SID" ON PREPAREDNESS

"The Millennium No Mushroom" Says He—"It Isn't Coming on the Run"

The question before the country is whether this nation ought to be prepared for war. Those who favor being prepared do not mean that they want war. What they mean is that they want protection provided against attacks, exactly as the public are provided to protect them from assaults by thieves and murderers. In other words they do not assume that all the nations of the earth are gentle, unselfish home-bodies who never go out nights to steal and maraud.

Some people feel differently. They are against preparedness. They say that preparedness breeds trouble. They think that we should go unarmed before the world, greet everybody with a smile, accept insults philosophically, turn the other cheek, and expect all nations to take counsel of our example, regenerate, and rapidly evolve into beautiful creatures like ourselves.

This is sound theory. It is perfect brotherly love. It is Christianity. If enough people will work at it, something fine may result in eight or nine million years.

But why do those who feel so brotherly disposed toward foreign nations treat the rest of us here at home so cautiously? Why don't they trust us, too? Why do they keep their hands on their money in the subway? Why do they chain their watches to their bosoms? Why put locks on their doors?

The fact is that their attitude toward those of us who live with them is their real attitude toward the whole human race, and what they are saying about preparedness is only what they think they think. If we were at war and our enemies were invading us, you would find these same people disturbed because of our unpreparedness. You would find them grabbing their money and their solid silver hair brushes and dashing out the back door to safety. And nobody would blame them.

Now, I think that some folks are led into talking against preparedness because they are afraid they won't be counted among the enemies of war.

They are afraid somebody will think that they want to hold back the millennium. How ridiculous! After all, this is still an imperfect world, and in his working hours man puts in the only lick he can at the job of hastening the millennium. At night he needs sleep. And he can't sleep with one eye peeled for a burglar who may come in through a door that isn't locked. The very fact that he is apprehensive because the door is unlocked is evidence that it should be locked. It simply means that up to the present time man can rest easier and do better work if there is a certain show of authority to keep order. As the centuries go by, the necessity of these demonstrations of authority ought to decrease.

The fact is that everybody is against war and in favor of the millennium. But there is a difference of opinion as to the speed of the millennium and its mode of travel. Some think that the millennium is coming on the run. They believe that one of these days it will rush up to our door to make us all happy and glad. This isn't my idea. Personally, I don't believe the millennium can run a step. I think it will have to be dragged by the heels and carried wherever we want to locate it. I think that you and I and our children will have to take off our coats and pull away at it for all we are worth. And if each generation moves it a trifle we'll do well. Anyway, the millennium is not here, yet, and it is foolish to act as if it were.—The American Magazine.

At Least One Great Achievement

The Democratic party for once and for all has settled the vexed currency question to the satisfaction of everybody, and all agree that this country will never have another panic. If the Democratic party had done nothing else but free the currency from the control and contamination of Wall Street it would be entitled to be perpetuated in power indefinitely.—Glasgow Missourian.

The Poultry Mite

Everyone knows the gray poultry mite which takes on a distinct reddish cast after the meal of blood. It is commonest in dark, damp, dirty poultry houses where it thrives upon filth, and the logical remedies recommended by J. T. Talbert of the Missouri College of Agriculture, are sunshine, ventilation and cleanliness. The henhouse should be so constructed that it can easily be kept clean and that there will be no cracks or crevices in the roosts or elsewhere to furnish hiding places for the mite during the day time when they are not on the fowls. They feed at night, crawling from fowl to fowl, so that one infested bird may introduce them into the entire flock.

Sunshine is one of the best disinfectants as well as a great foe to the mite, and it should be given access to just as much of the hen-house as possible. Regular spraying with kerosene emulsion, strong tobacco solutions, or commercial stock dips will help greatly. Commercial lime sulphur and miscible oils put on the market in such form that they will mix readily with water for use in spraying orchards are also helpful in combating the mite.

One application is not enough and the spray should be repeated in about a week in order to kill the young which may have developed from the eggs laid about the roost or in the filth before the first spraying. It should be applied with sufficient force to penetrate all cracks and crevices.

Kerosene emulsion properly prepared at home will give as good results as anything which can be purchased. Mr. Talbert gives the following directions for making it: "Dissolve half a pound of laundry soap, or a pound of lye soap, in a gallon of soft water; take the solution off the fire and add two gallons of kerosene before cooling. Mix them thoroughly by churning ten or fifteen minutes and use one part of the emulsion to eight or nine parts of water when ready to apply."

One part boiled lime sulphur made exactly as for orchard spraying may be mixed with eight parts of water, and the commercial stock dips may be used in accordance with printed directions usually furnished with them. Strong tea made by boiling tobacco stems in water gives good re-

sults, and whitewashing should not be neglected.

Spray pumps of many different sizes and types will give good results. Bucket pumps, knapsack sprayers, and automatic sprayers will be useful in the garden and orchard as well as in the hen-house, although a longer hose or extension rod will be needed in the orchard. A barrel pump or power sprayer may be used with good results if it is already on hand, but is more expensive than the average farm needs for hen-house work.

Order Garden Seed Early

Cheap garden seed is often dear at any price, in the opinion of J. S. Gardner, of the Missouri College of Agriculture. A high price is not necessarily a guarantee of high quality, but it does not pay to buy cheap seeds which may not grow, or may not produce vegetables of good variety if they do grow. The loss of time and ground is so great that the slightly higher cost of seeds furnished by reliable firms saves the planter money in the long run.

The buyer must depend entirely upon the reputation of the seedsman to insure his getting seed of the variety he orders, but after the seed has been secured, he can test its germination power, or get the College of Agriculture to do it for him free of charge. If he makes the test himself, it is better to plant fifty or a hundred of the seeds in a flat box of earth and see how many of them will develop into plants. They should be planted just as deeply in the box as they would be if planted in the garden. This is a much better test than ordinarily made between moist blotters, or in similar ways which enable many seeds to sprout that have not vitality enough to produce good plants in the garden, or even to get through the soil at all. It is not necessary to demand as high a germination percentage in case of cabbage, tomato, or other seeds that are to be started indoors, or in hot beds, and transplanted later, but in general, at least eighty out of every hundred tested should grow, or the seed should not be used.

If it is too much trouble to make the actual planting test, another may be made by simply putting seeds between sheets of blotting paper, and keeping them moist but not too wet, and at ordinary room temperature—about 60 degrees F.—for a reasonable

length of time. Radishes and lettuce may be expected to sprout in two or three days, while carrots and some other seeds may require much longer time. If blotting paper is not available, several thicknesses of ordinary newspaper, or perhaps better, cloth may be used to hold the moisture. The bottom of a shallow dish should be covered with half an inch or an inch of sand, which will keep the blotting paper moist and furnish drainage to keep the water from standing around the seeds. If many tests are to be made at once, two sheets of paper, or cloth, between which the first layer of seeds is placed, may be made the bottom of a considerable pile of similar tests which can be thoroughly sprinkled from the top and allow to drain down into the sand.

It is important that the temperature be kept uniform, ventilation be good, and the drainage be thorough, and that moisture be kept about the seeds. These conditions can be controlled well in many kitchens, living-rooms and basements, but perhaps the incubator will control them better than anything else found on the farm. It would probably not be a good thing to try to make tests while eggs are being hatched, but if many samples are to be tested, the incubator can be filled up with seeds enough to make it pay to run it.

If free tests are desired, send small samples of the seeds to the Seed Testing Laboratory, College of Agriculture, Columbia, Mo.

Bad Cold Quickly Broken Up.

Mrs. Martha Wilcox, Gowanda, N. Y., writes: "I first used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy about eight years ago. At that time I had a hard cold and coughed most of the time. It proved to be just what I needed. It broke up the cold in a few days, and the cough entirely disappeared. I have told many of my friends of the good I received through using this medicine, and all who have used it speak of it in the highest terms." Obtainable everywhere. (adv.)

Noas Dennis, son of Henry Dennis, who lives between this place and Caledonia, while out hunting last Sunday fell and the gun he was carrying was accidentally discharged. The charge struck the young man in the lower part of the body, inflicting injuries from which he died at 4 a. m., Monday morning.—Potosi Journal.

Wages Raised Add \$16,000.00 To U. S. Steel Pay Roll

New York, Jan. 7.—By the increase of ten per cent in the wages of common laborers announced by the United States Steel Corporation yesterday and other recent advances made by the same corporation the payrolls of the mills will be increased \$15,000,000 a year. The increase of the unskilled labor alone adds \$9,000,000 a year to the payrolls.

The announcement of the increase given to the laborers also stated that further advances were to be made in other departments. Skilled steel rollers are now making from \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year.

The company employs about 240,000 men, as compared with 197,000 in 1914, and 229,000 in 1913, the year of the highest previous payroll. Of the 240,000, about 150,000 come under the characterization of "common labor." They draw now 19½ cents an hour, or \$1.95 for a ten-hour day. The ten per cent wages thus increase their pay about \$60 a year, or about \$9,000,000 for the entire force of common labor.

The skilled labor of the corporation varying according to tonnage of output and prices of finished materials.

The average pay of all the employees of the corporation in 1914 was \$2.85 a day, or 3 cents less than in 1913, when a record for output was established. The average pay under the new scale will exceed that of 1913 by fully 6 cents a day.

100 RABBITS SLAIN WITH CLUBS

Men and boys of Middlefork, in Greene County, Illinois, this week went on a rabbit hunt with dogs and clubs. No guns were allowed. A total of more than 100 rabbits were slain.

The rabbits were sold and the proceeds used to buy oysters and other supplies for a free community oyster supper, held the latter part of the week, the entire village participating.

The indications are that there will be considerable building at "Epworth Among the Hills" next spring.—Iron-ton Register.

For farm land which less than thirty years ago cost him an average of \$40 dollars an acre, a Clay county man has just refused \$350 an acre.

1916

Promises to be a year of unusual activity in politics in Missouri, which, narrowed down, must also apply to St. Francois County.

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